

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOUSE RIGHT TO GIVE MIDDLE CLASS A BREAK

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following editorial, "House Right to Give Middle Class a Break." Appearing in the Atlanta Journal on June 30, 1997, this article cuts through all the misleading rhetoric surrounding the recently passed House tax-cutting bill. While providing the first major Federal tax cut to working Americans in 16 years, this bill will bestow a full three-quarters of its benefits upon middle income Americans with incomes under \$75,000 per year.

I would like to clear up two misconceptions about this bill. First of all, some of my friends on the left have attacked this bill because we chose to give tax relief to taxpayers, rather than channel the money into additional welfare spending. The fact of the matter is that the poorest working Americans do not pay Federal income tax, and the payroll taxes that are withheld from their paychecks are more than fully refunded through the earned income tax credit. To give an additional \$500-per-child tax credit to those who pay no taxes is welfare, plain and simple. Now if my redistributionist friends on the left favor higher welfare spending, they are welcome to make that argument on its own merits, but they should not disguise additional welfare payments as a tax credit.

The second false argument made by critics of the bill is that it is a tax giveaway to the rich. First of all, my Republican colleagues and I, start from the premise that tax dollars belong first and foremost to those who earned it, not the Government. Thus, the term "tax giveaway" can only be accurately used to describe the redistribution of wealth, whereby the Government confiscates money from the one who earned it to give it to someone who did not earn it. Furthermore, in analyzing who benefits from this tax bill, the Treasury Department cooked the books to make practically any taxpaying jobholder rich. For example, in calculating income, the Treasury Department factored in the potential revenue which could be generated by renting out one's house. No rational American considers him or herself wealthier by such a hypothetical source of additional income.

I join the Atlanta Journal in celebrating this long-overdue tax relief for hard-working Americans.

[From the Atlanta Journal, June 30, 1997]

OPINION: HOUSE RIGHT TO GIVE MIDDLE CLASS A BREAK

The House has passed a budget bill that would eliminate deficits by 2002, offer college scholarships to thousands of students and, for the first time in 16 years, give a significant tax break to an overburdened middle class.

And though it does all those remarkable things—helped by a hard-charging econ-

omy—the bill garnered support from just 27 Democrats. The Senate on Friday passed a similar budget bill, but with considerably more bipartisan support.

The 179 Democrats who voted against the House bill complained that it tilted too heavily in favor of the "rich" (read: the middle class) and did too little to help the "poor" (read: those who pay little or no taxes).

"They [Republicans] give tax breaks to people who don't need them," charged Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass).

We think the middle class needs them, and thus we're glad that families earning \$75,000 a year or less would get 76 percent of this bill's benefits. The main ones are:

\$3,000 in tax breaks for the first two years of college, or \$10,000 per year in tax deductions for tuition. The provision, a pet project of President Clinton, consumes about \$30 billion of the overall \$85 billion in tax cuts.

An increase in the amount of income exempted from inheritance taxes from \$600,000 to \$1 million. While Democrats charge this provision helps the rich, mostly it benefits small-business owners who risk losing a family business to an onerous tax liability after the death of a relative.

A cut in the capital gains tax to 20 percent from 26 percent, and adjusting capital gains to the effects of inflation. This benefits not just the wealthy, but a middle class increasingly invested in 401(k)s and mutual funds, as well as average home sellers whose "gains" are largely the result of inflation.

A tax credit of \$500 per child 17 or younger for families earning less than \$110,000. The credit, benefiting millions of families, would be \$400 next year, rising to \$500 thereafter.

House Democrats complain not just about the capital gains tax cut—which benefits all Americans by sparking capital investment and job creation—but also that Republicans refused to extend the child care tax credit to the working poor. Democrats wanted the \$500-per-child credit to go to those who don't even have \$500 in tax liability, giving the working poor, on top of the Earned Income Tax Credit, one more "refund" on taxes they didn't pay. But that's not a tax cut; it's another scheme to seize income from one American and put it in the pocket of another.

To the extent the working poor pay taxes, prepare their kids for college and try to save for the future, this bill is a boon to them. But in the end, tax cuts should go to people who actually pay taxes.

TRIBUTE TO BASEBALL LEGEND AND CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER, LARRY DOBY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to Mr. Lawrence Eugene Doby of Montclair, NJ, the first African-American to play baseball in the American League.

Mr. Doby was a leader in breaking down the color barriers both in baseball, and outside the stadium walls in our society. Mr. Doby first

played for the Cleveland Indians on July 5, 1947. Now, as we approach the 50th anniversary of that momentous day, it is fitting that we pay tribute to this great civil rights pioneer and honor his many achievements.

Mr. Doby was born in Camden, SC, on December 12, 1923. In 1938, he and his mother moved to Paterson, NJ, where he immediately demonstrated his great athletic prowess. At Eastside High School, he lettered in no less than four sports—baseball, basketball, track, and football. Upon his graduation from high school, Mr. Doby enrolled in Long Island University on a basketball scholarship. He later transferred to Virginia Union College, but had his education interrupted when he was drafted into the Navy in 1943.

Mr. Doby began his path to eventual stardom after receiving an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1946, when he joined the San Juan Senators in Puerto Rico and played there for several months. Later in 1946, Mr. Doby joined the Newark Eagles in the Negro National League as a second baseman. In his first year on the Eagles, Mr. Doby had a .348 batting average and earned a spot on the Negro American League All-Stars team. He also led the Eagles to the World Series, where they defeated the Kansas City Monarchs in a seven-game series.

During the early part of the 1947, rumors began spreading that Mr. Doby had been chosen to be the Jackie Robinson of the American League. These rumors became reality on July 5, 1947, as Bill Veeck of the Cleveland Indians officially purchased his contract from Effa Manley, the owner of the Newark Eagles.

Mr. Doby played in the American League for a total of 13 seasons. He spent nine of those with the Indians, three with the Chicago White Sox, and one, his last season, with the Detroit Tigers. His baseball career as a player ended on May 7, 1960, due to a torn ligament, fractured ankle and several other injuries. Throughout his career, Mr. Doby had amassed an astounding record, including a .283 batting average; 253 home runs; 969 runs; and a .983 fielding average. He also broke down several additional color barriers by becoming the first African-American to play in the World Series, hit a home run in any World Series, and win a major league home run title.

Despite his many commitments and extensive traveling, Mr. Doby managed to find time to raise a close-knit family. On August 19, 1946, he married his childhood sweetheart, Helyn Curvy, also from Paterson. Together, they raised five children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

After his career as a player ended, Mr. Doby by no means gave up on his commitment to the sport of baseball. Instead, he entered the second phase of his career, as a manager. In 1971, he became a full-time batting coach for the Montreal Expos. He would later serve as coach for the Cleveland Indians; manager of Zulia, a team in Maracaibo, Venezuela; and serve in a number of other scouting and coaching positions in the Major League. He became manager of the Chicago

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